

REMARKS

Claims 1, 18, 20, 30, 37, and 56 have been amended. Claims 1-69 are pending in this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 1-35, 37-46, and 48-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Blackmon et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,513,091, hereinafter "Blackmon." The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method of transferring data in a processor based system. The system includes a hub device connected to a first device by a link bus having a status line. According to claim 1, the method comprises the acts of "initiating the data transfer by transferring data on the link bus if it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should be initiated; obtaining a status of the initiated transfer by observing the status line during a second predetermined window of time; and determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled." Applicant respectfully submits that Blackmon does not disclose, teach or suggest the recited method.

Blackmon, by contrast, relates solely to a method of determining the address of destination devices without storing address range registers within a network switch of the system. According to Blackmon, the removal of address range registers from the switch increases the switch's efficiency (Col. 2, lines 32-44). Since the switch does not have the registers, address status lines are used to determine how to route data transfers. Thus, when a transfer device wishes to start a transfer, the Blackmon system forces all possible destination devices to return an address status so it can be determined which device can be the target. The address status has four values:

(00) address parity error; (01) retry; (10) address acknowledged; and (11) null. A combining logic circuit gathers all of the returned address status values and determines which device is the appropriate destination (i.e., the device returning the "address acknowledged" value). Only then will the switch be able to connect the transferor to the destination device (Col. 3, line 50 to Col. 4, line 56).

There is no disclosure of any type discussing what the Blackmon system does once the transferor is connected to the destination. There is no disclosure of any data transfer between the transferor and destination. There is no disclosure or teaching of any device or method for monitoring data transfers. As such, there can be no teaching of a mechanism for determining if the initiated transfer should be stalled based on such monitoring. The address status lines used in the Blackmon system relate solely to determining the address of the destination device and nothing more.

The Office Action, however, states that Blackmon's address parity error and retry status indications allow the Blackmon system to perform the claimed step of "determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled." Applicant respectfully disagrees. The status indicators relied upon in the Office Action relate solely to the setup of a potential transfer. That is, the address parity and retry indicators are used prior to the initiation of a transfer. These indicators are not used once a data transfer has been initiated by "transferring data on the link bus," as required by claim 1. Thus, the Blackmon address parity error and retry indicators cannot and do not allow the Blackmon transferor or combining logic to perform the step of "determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled." As such, the claimed invention is allowable over Blackmon.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Blackmon. Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1. Claims 18-19, 30-35, 37-46 and 48-55 each recite similar limitations as claims 1-17 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

Claim 20 recites a method of receiving data in a processor based system. The system includes a hub device connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus has a status line. According to claim 20, the method comprises "obtaining a status of an initiated transfer of data over said link bus by observing the status line during a second predetermined window of time; and determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled." As set forth above, there is no disclosure of any type discussing what the Blackmon system does once the transferor is connected to the destination. In fact, there is no disclosure of any data transfer between the transferor and destination. There is no disclosure or teaching of any device or method for monitoring data transfers. As such, there can be no teaching of a mechanism for determining if the initiated transfer should be stalled based on such monitoring. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable over Blackmon.

Claims 21-29 depend from claim 20 and are allowable along with claim 20. Claims 56-64 recite similar limitations as claims 21-29 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 36, 47 and 65-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackmon. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 36,

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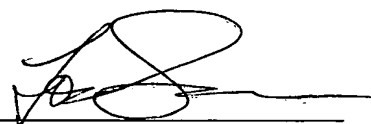
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47 and 65-69 each recite similar limitations as claims 1-17 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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